

# NECC Observer

Northern Essex  
Community College

## Special 50th Anniversary Edition

See pages six and seven for an exclusive look back

Sept. 21, 2011

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## Governor comes to town



Andy Robinson Photo

Governor Deval Patrick surprised a science class during a visit on Sept. 14.

By ANDY ROBINSON  
News Editor

For many students at Northern Essex, Sept. 14 was all about signing up for clubs and gathering freebies on the quad at the annual Student Life fair, but for some, a short visit and forum with Governor Deval Patrick was also in their agenda.

NECC President Lane Glenn welcomed those in attendance of the Governor's visit in the Student Center which included students, faculty, members of the community and members of local government.

Glenn said, "On the way in, the Governor asked if we had shut down municipal government in the region because we have I think all of our mayors with us here today."

Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini, Amesbury Mayor Thatcher W. Kezer III, and Newburyport Mayor Donna D. Holaday were all present.

After shaking every student's hand before the forum started, Patrick said, "I wanted to just have a minute of two for getting a more detailed tour around the campus to really talk with you, not talk at you. But to get a sense of your own experiences here, what's working, what's not, what you're worried, what you're thrilled about, what your plans are and I don't know- how you ended up on the list [to attend the forum]. Totally random, right?"

The week before the visit, Patrick announced that Northern Essex would be receiving a competitive state grant of \$135,053 to fund a new Student Success Center on the Lawrence Campus and to develop new retention programs. But it was clear that the Governor's intent with this visit was to see the campus and to meet a few students in order to get a better perspective on community college life.

The forum between the students

and the Governor was incredibly relaxed; filled with comfort and laughter. Everyone was at ease and when the few students who got the opportunity to speak to the Governor directly, professionalism in the presence of a leader came second nature to them.

Patrick said, "I'm glad you're here and I'm glad you made the time for me."

Iat Azur, a double major in education and writing, said, "I love it here. I have a GED. I'm 32. I have a 12 year old and a 14 year old and from a GED- I am applying to Columbia [University]. [NECC] has renewed my faith in superheroes, because I have an amazing President, Vice President, and advisors, deans, and some of the best professors I have ever encountered."

Patrick listened intently, often asking very specific questions.

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## The trail of champions

Women's volleyball  
team in search of  
new members

By MICHELE SIMON  
Features Editor

The victorious NECC Women's Volleyball team has achieved success both on and off the court and they've been doing it with not just seasoned athletes but also players completely new to the sport, and even some that are moms with young children.

As if winning the national championships four out of the past six years wasn't enough to get people to notice, they have also won the President's Cup the past three years in a row.

Sue MacAvoy, head volleyball coach and the director of athletics at NECC, said the key to the success of this team, a team that has to be rebuilt continually as students graduate or move on, is the "family" type of philosophy. "It helps because (the players) gel quicker. They work hard but they have fun doing it, and support each other all the way through."

"My philosophy has changed a lot since I've been here. Before I came here I was at the University of Michigan. I was on the coaching staff but I was more of a graduate intern/volunteer sort of assistant. But that was just such a high intense win - that's really all that mattered." MacAvoy acknowledged that academics and other things mattered also "but you pretty much, as a coach, had to have a winning team or you didn't coach there anymore."

"When I came here I had to step back a little bit and then I remembered why I loved volleyball so much; for the fun, the family."

That's where her philosophy changed she said.

"Volleyball has always been a passion for me." She played in high school and college and got so much out of it. She had a lot of good coaches and mentors along the way and she tries to model some of what she learned from them because she felt it helped her grow up, mature and build upon who she was. "I felt like I wound up with a whole bunch of sisters - or support staff."

"Obviously I want to win. Obviously I want to compete and do very well, but it's also about



• Michele Simon Photo

Kaoutar Acer (left) practicing for Volleyball with Katelyn Demers and Tiffany Gadd.

seeing students leave here successful in all aspects. If they all walked away from here with two championships in the two years they were here but then they didn't graduate, then that wouldn't mean nearly as much as if we lost a few games, had a good time, and they got a great experience out of it and

learned things and graduated."

She assures that the students' lives and academics do not take a backseat to playing and winning - it's all equally as important.

"I do realize that my students are full time students. I've had teams where I've had up to four or five moms on the team. Which was

an experience in itself. Before practice we would be playing tag with all the kids.

Those moms never thought they would be able to juggle playing volleyball, being a full time student, raising a family - but they did it - and they graduated."

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## Editorial

## 50 years strong

Northern Essex has been one of the Merrimack Valley's greatest assets.

For 50 years, the college has been excelling in the areas of healthcare, applied sciences, and the criminal justice fields. But this only speaks to the limelight aspects of the college. On campus, one can only find the hardest working and the most dedicated kind of students the secondary education system has to offer. Students do not shy away from the hardships that may be presented in balanced education and a full time job, they welcome the challenge.

It is the dream "that shall never die," that students work for; the promise of a career or even a foot in the door is not in the college contract, but we make that trip to early morning classes or our once a week four hour labs because we understand that this is the time to benefit from the knowledge and resources secondary educa-

tion has to offer.

Community college has been what people might call the school of underdogs, in the sense of students starting over again, discovering new paths in life, and being able to welcome an older generation of students. It is this factor that sets community colleges apart from four year education institutions.

Northern Essex is always changing and growing. With the expansion on the Lawrence campus, the college starting to rebuild a city that has been on the downside of advantage for some time. With the opportunities now becoming available, students of the Lawrence area can now see brighter futures.

With 50 years gone and past, we can now look to the next 50 years with more experience and more ambition than ever before.

## NECC Observer

*The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College*

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|-------|------------------|------------------|
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| #5    | Nov. 2           | Oct. 26          |
| #6    | Nov. 16          | Nov. 9           |
| #7    | Dec. 7           | Dec. 1           |
| #8    | Dec. 14          | Dec. 7           |

## How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurr building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include Letter to Editor in the subject line or risk not being received by the Observer email system.

**We prefer submissions via email:**

observer@necc.mass.edu

\*Include Letter to Editor in the subject line.

**But, if you wish to submit a letter via paper:**

Letter to Editor, NECC Observer, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill, MA 01830

While we attempt to publish all letters, we reserve the right to edit or reject those received.

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Observer Staff Cartoon

## Roaming Reporter

## Do you use NECC's insurance?



**Frances Diaz**  
Accounting  
"No, I don't."



**Cody Weimar**  
Music  
"I don't know, I'm on my dad's plan."



**Nick Fusco**  
Journalism  
"I don't think so."

*Photos/Interviews by Thomas Shamma*



**Kate Fallon**  
Education  
"I don't believe so."



**Daniel Potocki**  
Political Science/Writing  
"Yes -- it's fantastic. It's helped me save lots of money [...] the only problem is, it seems to change every year."



**Valerie Gyang**  
Human Services: Nursing  
"No, I don't -- I waive it."

## Opinion

# The role of community college

*What community colleges offer that four-year schools can't*

By THOMAS SHAMMA  
Opinion editor

Northern Essex Community College is home to hundreds of students, who chose this school for a variety of reasons.

Some are here to get qualifications in our nursing programs, some are here to get Associate's degrees before they enter the workforce.

Some are here because they couldn't afford to go straight to a four-year school. Some, because they couldn't fit a four-year school into their schedule.

What they have in common is a desire to improve themselves, to learn new skills and build

opportunities for themselves. Northern Essex has a campus-wide culture of appreciation for the opportunities education provides.

A community college offers these opportunities to more people, and in more ways, than most traditional colleges can. There are numerous reasons.

Money is a big one. Full time, four-year schools can get expensive pretty quickly, and they can make it difficult to maintain a job to keep up with the payments.

NECC also provides the advantage of a flexible schedule. The college provides a large selection for day and night classes, and they make it easy to fit your schedule around your life.

Another reason to come to Northern Essex is the culture. We have a lot of older students at NECC, and while they may feel

some of the pressure of being above the "standard college age," the environment here is a lot more open to accepting more students, of more backgrounds, with more motives for attending college.

We've had many articles in the Observer praising the dedicated teaching staff here, and for good reason.

Community colleges help to bridge the gaps in access to higher education. They provide opportunities to improve one's work position or academic standing, or space to move out of one career or lifestyle and into another.

If four-year colleges and universities provide their students with specific, structured opportunities, community colleges offer a spectrum of chances, and ways to prepare oneself for those chances.

Governor Duval Patrick visited Northern Essex last week, and spoke with several of the students. (see [Andy's article] on page [X]) He heard inspiring stories from the crowd, of people taking the opportunities Northern Essex provided them with, and using them to build the life they want to live.

In the community, and in soci-

ety, community colleges play an important role. The opportunities students raised with Governor Patrick, and the ones every student gets, would be much harder to come by without the openness and accessibility of NECC.

The college helps to fill the responsibility of any society to offer opportunities for information and education to its citizens.

## We want to hear from you.

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:

[observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu)

Include "Opinion Editor" in subject line.

# How sex has changed in 50 years

*Comparisons between current and past morals*

By LISA LEMOI  
Staff writer

"Let's talk about sex, baby, let's talk about you and me, let's talk about all the good things and the bad things that may be, let's talk about sex."

For those of you born in the late 1980's you may be old enough to know what female vocal group sang this song. For those of you who weren't, it was Salt N Pepa.

The song discussed simply, sex and the disadvantages of being promiscuous. Believe it or not, this song was pretty controversial back in the day.

However, presently sex is everywhere and is taken pretty lightly when it comes to expressing it. Especially on college campuses.

I know we are a commuter school, however NECC students at some point will go on to schools that are not. So, I guess I would have to ask, where do we draw the line when it comes to moral behavior on campuses?"

When the Observer staff took out the first edition of the NECC Observer dated November 21, 1962, one story caught my eye. It was titled "Students' Moral Behavior on Campus Discussed", by Ellin Foreman. In it she discusses the recent flurry of articles that were in newspapers and magazines on the subject of sex and the college student.

In the article, Foreman focuses on a private assembly that was held by Vassar College President, Sarah Gibson Blanding on April 4, 1962 on student moral behavior on campus.

She addressed the student body by stating "students are expected to maintain the highest standards of behavior and those who drink to excess or engage in

premarital sexual relations are not living up to the highest standards of behavior." I found that statement pretty strict and was curious to know exactly what her speech said. I went to the Vassar College website archives and found an excerpt of her speech.

It said; "premarital sex and excessive drinking would not be tolerated at Vassar." She declared that sexual promiscuity was "indecent and immoral" and that "disciplinary action would be taken against those who did not follow the standards of the college."

President Blanding went on to state that, "those students who could not follow the rules to withdraw voluntarily from Vassar."

Wow. You have got to be kidding me. She is stating this to students who were considered adults in society. Could we imagine if President Glenn said to us, if you can't keep it in your pants, go elsewhere? (Of course, I'm using extreme and loosely stated terms; President Glenn would definitely be more eloquent if addressing this issue to us on campus.) I wonder what students would do. Would they stay? Would they agree?

When taking a poll from students who heard President Blanding's speech, 52% agreed with her, 40% disagreed, and the rest were undecided.

I wonder what the students at NECC would think.

As I'm reading through the article Ms. Foreman wrote, the entire thing sounds so stuffy, rigid and so very 1962. Students were expected to behave with the highest of moral standards. There was so much expectation put on 18 year olds and older.

Acting like an adult was important back then. It was something that was earned not just handed over. Having credibility and integrity was highly



Courtesy photo

From the set of *I Love Lucy*, where a married couple sharing a bed was an implication too far for TV.

regarded in society back in 1962.

This leads me to this question. Do we still have this integrity today amongst our young adults?

The stuffy 'old person' in me wants to say we don't. She wants to say that young adults today take everything for granted and there is this sense of entitlement that is just flooring to me.

Then there is the hip and happening person who thinks that this is a totally different time, era, and lifestyle than in the 60's and with this type of change so do the kids. The optimistic in me hopes that with age, these young adults will become to understand society's ways and wise up to what they need to do in life and make it all better.

But am I right?

I posed the question out to some fellow students and their response is interesting.

Rosanne Cudia Romano stated, "Students slack off because

this generation thinks the world owes them something. Adding sex and partying into the mix brings down the moral even more because they are focusing even less on work as they are thinking about the next party coming up or who they are going to hook up with next.

Ouch.

Charles Russo stated, "a Brigham Young University baseball player, Brandon Davies got kicked off the team and out of school last year for having premarital sex (I think his girlfriend got pregnant)."

The student athletes at BYU had to sign a type of contract saying no drinking, sex, etc. BYU is a Mormon university.

Additionally, I think the country has become morally bankrupt. Anything goes nowadays. Parents can't let their kids watch TV past the 6 p.m. news anymore. All shows have sexual connotations or half naked actors

and actresses.

Sex is very casual now. Not a lot of meaning in it for kids of this generation. The kids nowadays think oral sex is like a handshake. I believe the whole loss of morality etc. impacts work ethic, respect for one another, elders, and how they view the value of a dollar and their possessions."

Doesn't look promising, does it?

I posed this question out to traditional college students but didn't get a response. I wonder if it was because they just didn't notice the e-mail request or they just flat out didn't care to contribute their comments to a discussion on moral issues.

The hip and happening person was really hoping for the other side to form an opinion, giving me a good "get with the program granny" type response, and state to me that casual sex is where it's at these days and to not be so stuffy; "kids of today are doing just fine".

However, what worries me is exactly what I didn't get.

## News

# 50 Years Later, Jackie O speaks

*Rare interviews reveal personal side of Camelot Queen*

By ANDY ROBINSON  
News Editor

It was in her Washington, DC home in the winter of 1964 that Jacqueline Kennedy gave the most candid and most revealing set of interviews regarding her and her husband's White House years.

An intimate look into a time that was filled with political tensions surrounding nuclear war, the civil rights movement, and an ongoing change in social class, the book, "Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy," takes the reader right into the heart of the New Frontier.

Arthur M. Schlesinger, noted historian and Kennedy friend, was given the opportunity to conduct the exclusive interviews, but at the time, Kennedy had requested that the tapes not be released to the public until 50 years after her death. The release now, only 17 years after her death (she died in 1994), is to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Presidency of John F. Kennedy, according to Kennedy daughter, Caroline.

All the "explosive," speculations the

media has been throwing around back and forth are completely absent from the book. Caroline Kennedy, the last remaining daughter of Camelot's king and queen, has taken the role of preserving the Kennedy legacy just as her mother had, and in this new book, she writes in the forward, "I

have asked myself the question, when does someone no longer belong to you, but belong to history? Few people have been written about more than my mother, and I grew up feeling I needed to protect her—just as she had protected us [her and John Jr.]"

For the past several weeks, speculation has been surrounding the release of the exclusive interviews and questions as to what Kennedy revealed almost 50 years ago. Rumors of an affair with movie star William Holden and revelations as to who



The Kennedys never turned away from the camera, but kept their thoughts and personal tragedies far away from public earshot. Courtesy Photo- JFK Library

really plotted the conspiracy to kill President Kennedy, have been circulating, but none of this is can be found in these interviews.

Anyone looking for information regarding other people in the marriage of Jack and Jackie should look elsewhere. Caroline told Diane Sawyer on an ABC News special that, "I think that was really between them...I wouldn't be her daughter if I was going to share all that."

The interviews (a total of seven spanning over eight hours) reveal the

personal side of President Kennedy; a very guarded aspect of him and one that has been theorized since his assassination. Who was the man behind the myth? It's strange that still people wander this after the hundreds of books, documentaries and studies have been done on him. One of the most prolific men in American history is also the most mysterious.

More importantly, the book is a fascinating cross-section of who

Jacqueline Kennedy was during this time. She explains how intimate some moments were between her and her husband. An example she gives is of seeing him for a very brief moment between Inauguration Day parties and just touching his chin. She says, "I mean, that was so much more emotional than any kiss because his eyes really did fill up with tears."

At times, the conversations between Kennedy and Schlesinger get to be a bit gossipy. This isn't the, "tell-all"

book some people were hoping for, but it has its moments where a reader might wince and say, "Did she actually say that?" Some of the sections regarding Martin Luther King Jr. have already garnered controversy. Regarding some of the White House parties, Schlesinger and Kennedy really analyze who came, who they liked, who they didn't like, and so forth.

It really is a personal account. The breathy voice of Jacqueline Kennedy sometimes cracks and gets quieter and quieter. Other times you can hear John Jr. playing in the background or the sound of a lighter.

Information about the Kennedys is not new. It's almost a daily routine that some new piece of information is discovered and thrown out to all the reporters and history buffs to drool over. Whether it's a never-before seen photo, a document outlining a political initiative, or another friend of Kennedy writing about his little known experiences with the President. What makes this book significant is the fact that Jacqueline gave only a handful of interviews after she left the White House, one being legally taken for the Warren Commission, the research team accounting the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963. There's no question that the details revealed in the book will be studied for years to come.

## Gov. Patrick answers students

Continued from Page 1

Then he went on to another student.

Patrick said, looking at a student, "You want me to just call on you?"

Confused and probably disoriented, the student said, "Right here? Ok—my name is Chris." Then looking to the crowd of reporters, mayors, and faculty behind him, "Chris—in case anybody didn't hear me."

Chris Baxter, a second year business and film student, said, "I work 40 hours a week, on Hampton Beach, that's where I'm from. I actually deal blackjack at a charitable casino there."

"Financial aid gave me a full ride. If it wasn't for that, I wouldn't be here right now. I used that and I got a 3.7 GPA. I hope [financial aid grants] sticks around because I would love to see kids like me get the opportunity to do the same thing I did."

When asked about job placement after graduating with an associate's degree, Patrick responded that as most know, education is Massachusetts's sweet spot, and that, there are industries that depend on a highly educated workforce.

Patrick said, "We're actually growing jobs faster than 44 other states. We have moved up to sixth best place in the nation in which to do business with. [Job growth] is happening more often in MA than most of the rest of the country. So we have to stay on that course."



Photo by Andy Robinson  
Governor Deval Patrick and NECC President Lane Glenn take a short tour around campus with an entourage of photographers, faculty members, and local mayors.

The unemployment, being 7.4 percent as of September, 2011 is pretty good in these economic times, but, "it's still too high," Patrick said.

For someone like Sarah Forristall, a self-employed carpenter who is currently underemployed, the question for her was: How do you go to school when the financial aid services recognize the previous year's tax returns and not one's current situation?

Forristall said, "I'm doing very well with my studies and thoroughly enjoying it - but I haven't had as much luck with the financial aid process." For example, someone could do very well one year, but when layoffs come along the next year and it's time to do the FASFA, you may be out of luck.

Patrick said that a lot of grants do go to companies for their employees to get the certificates and the training they need

and self-employed people are unfortunately overlooked.

"I understand that it's a different population [the self-employed], but we are out there and we grow into small businesses and then we grow into medium sized businesses and so on and so forth."

After the forum, Patrick was then introduced to the college's use of a new program called "DegreeWorks," which academic advisors now use along with stu-

dents to plan their time at Northern Essex. A short tour of the advising center and applied science labs followed. It was quite a sight for students walking across campus to see the Governor of Massachusetts followed by a twenty person entourage.

The absence of the mayor of Lawrence, William Lantigua did go noticed and was brought up during a few minutes of press time.

Patrick said that he was was delighted that those who came did and then he quipped, "I always miss him when I don't see him."

It was a short visit, but none the less a worthwhile trip involving a lot of contact with students. It was clear from the start that the Governor did want to have some back and forth with some students really effected by changes and policies of NECC. Setting a tone of optimism and and a good eye towards the future of community colleges across Massachusetts, all in attendance seemed rather touched by the sincerity of the responsiveness given.

Once the student forum came to a close, President Glenn said, "I want to suggest to you that non-traditional is traditional for us. Last semester, our youngest student was 16, our oldest was 78. Most of our students work, most of our students are part-time, a lot of them are raising families - this is traditional for us. And they're all absolutely wonderful."

## Arts and Entertainment

# Old 'Dogs', new tricks

*"Straw Dogs" remake: a celebration of violence?*

BY SHANNON KEATING  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Director Sam Peckinpah said: "There is a great streak of violence in every human being. If it is not channeled and understood, it will break out in war or in madness." In Rod Lurie's remake of Peckinpah's 1971 Oscar-nominated thriller, "Straw Dogs", we see the consequences of one man reaching his breaking point.

James Marsden ("Enchanted") plays David Sumner, a well-to-do Hollywood screenwriter looking to escape his city life to focus on his writing. He and his TV-star wife Amy, played by Kate Bosworth ("Blue Crush"), journey to her hometown of Blackwater, Mississippi, and move into her now deceased father's house.

Alexander Skarsgård from HBO's hit series True Blood plays Charlie, Amy's high school beau who, after all these years, still hasn't been able to get over her.

When David hires Charlie and his band of misfit hunting buddies to fix their roof, he gets a whole lot more than he bargained for.

As the couple attempts to settle into their new home, they continuously find themselves butting heads with Charlie and his gang. What begins as a few seemingly harmless pranks at the expense of the couple quickly escalates to sexual harassment, and heinous crimes punishable by law.



Kate Bosworth and James Marsden play house in Rod Lurie's remake of Sam Peckinpah's 1971 thriller, "Straw Dogs." Courtesy Photo

But why would a group of old schoolyard friends be brought to such brutish acts of violence? The answer, my friends, can be found in Darwin.

David and Charlie are facing off in a territorial battle of the alpha males. David's idea of being a man is having a college degree, an expensive car, and money to burn. While Charlie's ideals all stem from manual labor and tradition -- a sort of John Wayne-esque figure. While Charlie fixes houses, hunts deer, and goes to church to pray for a football victory, David sits in his study, researching WWII battles on his laptop for his multi-million-dollar

movie script.

Each member of the cast plays their role effectively. I worried that Marsden's portrayal of David Sumner would never measure up to that of the original's, played by Dustin Hoffman. I am happy to say that my needs were met. Marsden is charming as the insecure geek trying to impress the cool kids. His transition from pacifist to homicidal maniac is shocking and believable.

A scantily clad Kate Bosworth gives a disturbingly convincing portrayal of a woman who has been shaken to her core -- I just wanted to give her a Happy-Meal when the movie was

over.

But it's the devilishly handsome Alexander Skarsgård who steals the show as the 6-foot-4, silver-tongued roughneck whose love for Amy remains unrequited. His devilish smirks and mischievous stare would make Jack Nicholson stand up and applaud. You sympathize with him, distrust him, respect him, HATE him... in summary, he is not your average movie villain.

Aside from a few subpar CGI effects, the film is very well made. The seamless editing by Sarah Boyd creates an almost palpable air of disorder. The violence in the final scene is much more intense and realistic as compared to the original version; Which is interesting, considering the controversy the original film stirred due to, what was considered then, graphic violence (So graphic in fact, the film was banned from many theaters).

David finds courage, determination, and fortitude in himself that he never knew he had. And in that sense, his character is admirable. On the other hand, he falls victim to the violence he is trying to prevent.

What I found unsettling about the film is not the violence itself, but my initial response to it. I found myself rooting for David's innovative, albeit barbaric assassinations of each intruder. The film's climax begs the question, "Who is the real villain?" And that question is why I don't consider "Straw Dogs" to be a celebration of violence, but rather an examination of human nature. We witness a man being antagonized to the point of extreme outward violence. "Straw Dogs" earns a B+.

## Dropkick Murphys rock Fenway

*Boston bands unite in their hometown*

BY ANDY ROBINSON  
News Editor

Fenway Park. That little, "bandbox of a ballpark," as it has been called, was the recent venue to some of the biggest rock bands to come out of the Boston area. The lineup included The Dropkick Murphys, The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, and the Street Dogs.

There are few things, if any, that can compare to seeing an Irish punk rock band live. When you go to a concert like this, you feel like you're preparing for a long awaited war between you (the Irish) and those white-collar oppressors who took your land and taxed your goods or whatever you want to think. You don't know what you're fighting for, but you know your heart is in it all the way. Standing next to you is not just some other fan, but a brother born from the love of drink and Irish song.

Street Dogs opened the show with, "Rattle and Roll," one of the songs on their self-titled album. The song set the tone for the rest of the night. It was like pure ecstasy for the fans, being the song is essentially a tribute to lead singer Mike McColgan's hometown, Dorchester, Mass.

Just saying the word, "Boston," which all the bands did throughout, gathered almost unanimous roars and applause from the audience.

It's a unique experience to not watch baseball in a ballpark. The concert was set in the "Bleacher Theater" in the park, sharing a wall with the Green Monster. It's such a dish. Not only are we in the hub of the universe, we are in the home of Boston Red Sox, the Dunkin Donuts billboard overhead shelters us, and in

our ears, songs of tribute to our immigrant ancestors.

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones carried the crowd through the setting sun and into the early night. I'll be honest with you, I know very little about this band, but I will say that I did enjoy it thoroughly... for a Ska band, anyway.

Through every second of their hour-long set, Ben Carr danced his heart out. There's a mesmerizing quality about him and his jig that surprisingly distracts you from the music.

After the Bosstones, a video began on the jumbo-trons behind the seats. We see The Dropkick Murphys being led to the stage by the Red Sox's own Jonathan Papelbon. "Foggy Dew" by Sinead O'Connor & the Chieftains echoed through the rafters in pitch-black darkness.

The Dropkick Murphys, accompanied by several bagpipers, then came into sight by a spotlight on the Green Monster. The audience members stood tall and proud as if welcoming their king home from a faraway journey. During this short passage of time, we were in Ireland.

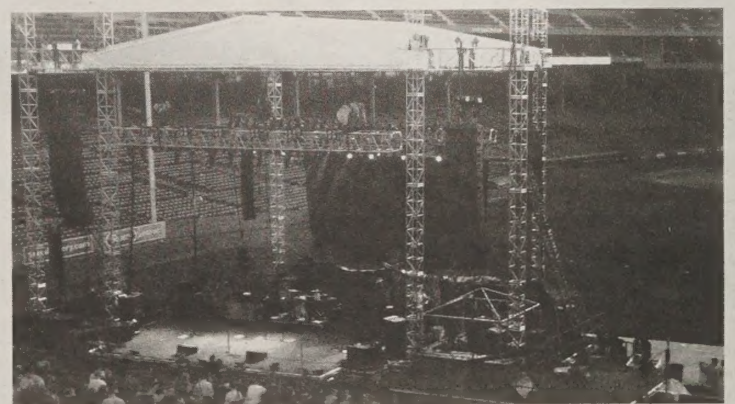
So the Dropkick Murphys come on and, to put it lightly, are simply awesome. Everyone is singing merrily along, their brothers by their sides. They played some classics like, "State of Massachusetts." Most of their set was from their new album "Going Out in Style." They closed the show with their hit, "Shipping Up to Boston."

Like all dreams, it eventually came to an end... and then the nightmare of getting out of Boston and back to the Merrimack Valley began. An immediate rush out of the bleachers ensued. No violent outbursts, just the tired groans of a satisfied crowd.



Dropkick Murphys perform songs from their new album, "Going Out in Style."

Photo by Andy Robinson



The stage was set in "Bleacher Theater" next to the Green Monster, at Fenway Park. Photo by Andy Robinson

# Northern Essex then Professor reflects on NECC

BY MARY ELLEN  
D'ANGELO-LOMBARI  
Campus Life Editor

James Gustafson began teaching as a part time philosophy professor at NECC in the fall of 1968 became a full time professor, and he is still working here today.

"I interviewed with Dean Donald Ruhl and was hired by President Harold Bentley. Not too many people know this but Bentley was a minister, and was not opposed to hiring ministers. He grew up in England or Wales, and had a beautiful brogue. As most clergy can, he told unbelievably funny stories. He was a very funny guy. There were many times we would be holding our sides and laughing while we were listening to him," says Gustafson.

In 1966 Roland Kimball started the Bible Club. It is known as the NECC Christian Club.

"Roland Kimball was an English professor, a faithful Christian, and also taught the Bible as Literature. I took over as the staff advisor and stayed on for twenty-five years. Beth Wilcoxon took over after me. Now we have Jillian Knowles and Diedra Budznya.

"I'm a Bostonian. I graduated from Roxbury Latin High School. From there I went to Wheaton College. I picked up a degree in phi-

losophy, a wife, and a son, just four weeks before I graduated," says Gustafson.

Gustafson received his PhD from Boston University, a masters from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

I've been here through four presidents, Bentley, Dimitry, Hartleb, and now Lane Glen.

"Retirement is a totally useless concept. It was invented in the 1930's for men who were all tired out and wanted to sit in a swing all day long. I don't believe in retirement," says Gustafson. "I feel now I can do more of what God has called me to do. I spend most of my day doing what I want to do, and one of those things is teaching philosophy."

Gustafson also teaches some classes in World Religions, which he says is mostly philosophical issues.

"In philosophy, the curriculum does not change much. It's all about ideas everyone believes in, the meaning of life, how we should treat each other," says Gustafson. At one point in time he and Wally Blanchard developed a course in Bioethics. It combined scientific advances with questions about the ethics of such issues as genetic engineering, organ transplants, and environmental hazards.

Blanchard was into raising pigs.

"I remember going to his (Blanchard's) house and butchering a pig. When we were finished we

packaged the meat."

The biggest change Gustafson has seen is the development of the current campus in Haverhill.

"When I started teaching I had a classroom in the basement of the Grange building. There were also classrooms in the People's Methodist Church, and headquarters were at the old Greenleaf School. The problem was as the school grew we needed to find more and more rooms to teach our classes.

"For a few years we were in the old Haverhill High School, which is now the city hall. At least there we had a stable space. The Haverhill Campus opened in the fall of 1970. It was like a dream place.

"We had all the bells and whistles, like mimeograph machines, labs, a library, chalkboards, chalk, and parking lots. It was a great teaching environment. We had the 'spirit duplicators.' You could get twenty good copies from them, another ten to fifteen faded copies, but after fifty you couldn't read them."

In the 1990's, the use of computers added the option of online classes to students.

Since then Gustafson has taught classes online for NECC. He has traded the freedom of online classes for the face-to-face contact he has always loved.

"Teaching online classes give me an opportunity to be an adjunct professor at New Theological College in

India and Scott Christian University in Kenya. I volunteer at these colleges. I like to help people who need a hand. Teaching at NECC gives me the opportunity I need to offer my services overseas," says Gustafson, who uses a textbook he wrote himself in his philosophy classes, *The Quest for Truth: An Introduction to Philosophy*. It is in its fifth edition. He uses the overseas edition in India and Kenya.

"Al Fulcoo and Jim Hallison were on the leading edge of computerized education. I jumped right in on it. I love to try new things. We were now able to reach a segment of people who could not get an education because for some reason or other they could not make it to campus. Either they had children, or didn't have transportation. These students could do their homework at four in the morning if they wanted to," says Gustafson. These people were no longer left out of the loop because they could do their schoolwork at home.

"I've had excellent students at NECC over the years," says Gustafson. Some people, he says, tend to look down on NECC because it is a community college. They think it is a fly by night thing for dropouts and people who can't make it in the top tier. But, our students are getting a top-notch education. The professors are teaching the courses, not assistants. NECC students are face to face

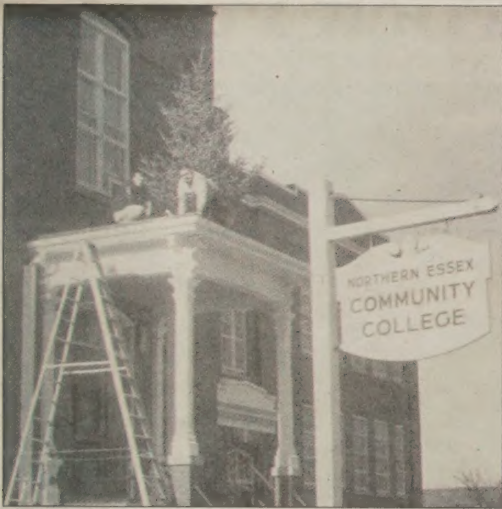


Mary Ellen D'Angelo Lombari Photo

**Philosophy Professor James Gustafson is like an encyclopedia of knowledge on the history of NECC.**

with highly trained educators from every discipline and in every class they attend. Gustafson feels we have nothing to feel inferior about.

"It's a good investment for the money," says Gustafson. "Why not give good education to good people who would otherwise be shut out because of money."



Courtesy photos

NECC opened its doors in 1961 at Greenleaf Elementary School in Bradford to 181 students.



Pictured above is the ground being broken for the Bentley building.



Courtesy photos

Sen. Ted Kennedy, pictured with former president David Hartleb during a visit at NECC.



Obviously books have gone digital and the style of hats have changed, at least a little bit.

# and now, 50 years later

## Student tells of NECC today

*Half a century old  
and students still find  
success at NECC*

**BY MARY ELLEN  
D'ANGELO -LOMBARI**  
*Campus Life Editor*

Kaleigh Patterson sits at Jitters Cafe waiting for her Hospitality class and tells of her experiences here at NECC.

"I graduated from Methuen High School in 2009. I did not want to travel to go to school. I wanted to go somewhere close to my house. I also wanted a small campus. When I come here, I know where everything is."

Patterson takes the city bus, which picks her up just minutes from her home, and takes her directly to the Haverhill campus in 15 minutes. She stays for the day, and returns home on either the 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. bus.

"I take all my classes Mondays through Fridays during the day. I'm always at the Haverhill campus," says Patterson.

In between classes Patterson

sometimes hangs out with several of her friends who graduated from MHS with her and chose to attend NECC.

She also met a lot of new friends in the Hospitality Club last year. Sometimes they walk around the campus. At other times they sit in Jitters Cafe or the One-Stop Center.

"It's quieter in here. There are computers to use and I can get something to eat if I want," says Patterson. Citing cost as the

says Patterson, who did not apply to any other colleges. She did not want to go through the application process, which involves SAT testing, essays, filling out applications and paying application fees. Knowing she could attend NECC with its' open admission policy gave her peace of mind.

Patterson will be graduating with a degree in General Studies. She feels very comfortable with a course load of four classes per semester. She may take an extra

**I think (NECC) is a great school. I'm really happy here.**

**— Kaleigh Patterson, NECC student**

major reason, Patterson says she brings a lot of food from home to eat.

"I buy some food here. Some things are more reasonable than others."

"It's less expensive for incoming freshman. They can come here instead of going straight to a four year college,"

year to get her degree in order to go at pace that works for her, and she is completely comfortable with that.

"Sometimes I get all my homework finished before I go home at night. Sometimes I don't." Patterson plans to go on to a four-year college when she graduates from NECC. She does



Mary Ellen D'Angelo Lombardi Photo

**NECC student, Kaleigh Patterson waits in Jitters cafe before her classes start.**

not have her sights on a particular college, but once again will choose one that is close to home and has a small campus. She is thinking about going into counseling.

"I want to help little kids and

teen-agers," says Patterson.

"I think (NECC) is a great school. I'm really happy here. I'm having a lot of fun meeting new people and just experiencing it," says Patterson.

Exactly 82  
degrees were  
given out at the  
first commencement . In 2011,  
over 1000  
degrees were  
awarded to  
students



Chantal McGovern Photo

The NECC sign is no longer made from wood. The campus is no longer one building. There are seven on the Haverhill campus alone.

At first there  
were 81  
students.  
Now there are  
over 7,400 stu-  
dents enrolled  
in degree pro-  
grams at NECC.



NECC has been host to famous individuals including Andre Dubus III, the author of 'Townie' last April.



Courtesy Photos

NECC recently has opened the new Riverwalk building in Lawrence and is continuing to expand the campus there.

## Features

# NECC host to Poland Students

*Exchange students take writing course at NECC, over summer*

**By CHANTAL MCGOVERN**  
Executive Editor

Over the summer, NECC was host to a group of new students. No, they were not "freshmen", rather they were students studying abroad from their native land of Poland.

The eleven students from Adam Mickiewicz University took a four week course on creative writing, with Tom Greene, English professor at Northern Essex.

However, the most interesting part of the entire experience for the students was learning about American culture.

The students stayed in the Best Western in Haverhill. On their first day in Haverhill, they quickly learned that crossing the road to go to the grocery store would be a problem as it was located next to a major highway.

"Everything looked different" Michal Osowski said. "Everyone is faster, much faster."

Besides people driving a lot faster than in Poland, they also needed to figure out the public transportation.

They said that here it wasn't nearly as reliable as the transporta-

tion available back home and it took them, "forever" to get to campus. On several occasions the class had to be delayed, just so everyone could be in class.

The girls heard stories from an older woman to not go to the train station late at night. After this they used the buddy system and didn't go there late at night.

Something the students had to learn to adjust to was all the numbers Americans used.

"We get this story about activating the prepaid phone. There are like a billion numbers" Osowski said. "Then, they always check my passport at the hotel like I am a criminal or something."

When asked about the food in America, one student preceded to make gagging sounds. Obviously, the food was not as appealing as they would have hoped.

The coffee left a bad taste in their mouth. Especially when visiting Boston and ordering a cup from a street vendor, which left them wondering exactly what goes into the coffee.

To them everything was too sweet. The portions were also, "huge," ordering one meal at a restaurant lasted them the entire day.

Besides taking a class at NECC, the students did a lot of traveling to cities such as NYC and Portland, ME. Since, as the students found out, there isn't much to do in Haverhill, especially if you have to use public transportation.

*Continued from Page 1*

This year the obstacles have been set even higher as last year the entire team moved on.

"That hasn't really happened to me before" MacAvoy said. Until now she's always had at least one player from the previous year return.

Does this mean the volleyball championship streak has ended? Is it possible to win a championship with a whole new team?

"I think it could be as long as they come over ready to work and work hard and they're dedicated to the team and one another, then I think we could be fine" MacAvoy said, remaining positive. "I'm ready for the challenge."

Tiffany Gadd, a player on last year's championship team talked about that win and how new players have had an effect on the team.

Winning the championship "was a good feeling especially since we didn't have a lot of players. There were seven of us and six of us basically played pretty much all of the time."

"It was a good accomplishment, especially since we had people who had never played before, girls who had barely played before so it was definitely a huge learning experience."

"We had a lot of fun. It was a great team. We just really came together as a team, and worked really well with each other. We spent a lot of time with each other even outside

of Volleyball."

She said part of their success was "just really communicating with each other, letting each other know our strengths and weaknesses and being supportive of each other"

Even though having new players on the team is not a new experience and has not deterred them from winning the championship, it can mean working harder. What would it take for a completely new team to continue the previous team's championship streak?

"They got to want to come in, work hard and be a member of a team. And realize that being a member of a team means being here, giving your time to the team and learning hard both on and off the court. Because you have to be successful in the classes to stay on the court as well. And just be ready to work. And want it - they have to have that drive too," MacAvoy said.

After talking to Sue MacAvoy and a few of the past and current players, watching them talk together like they have known each other forever instead of a few short weeks or days, I believe that last year's volleyball team wasn't entirely lost: Their coach remains, and she is one of the strengths behind this team's ongoing success.

Vanessa Serretto agrees. "She's a good coach," she said,

even though she just joined the team. Serretto played at Whittier Vocational Technical High School last year and this will be her first year playing for NECC. "She's putting us in a positive mode like everything will be fine."

The NECC Volleyball team is not just an exclusive college sport for seasoned athletes. Anyone can play or be involved.

Sue MacAvoy said she has never cut anyone, since she's been here, because of their ability.

If they get cut it's for technical reasons like not getting in the paperwork or meeting other regulations. Ability to play volleyball is not the deciding factor on getting on the team, and has been proven to not be a deciding factor in winning - for this team, with this coach.

This year's team already has one member completely new to the sport, Kaoutar Acef and she's looking forward to playing. With a start time at the beginning of the first semester it can be difficult recruiting new Volleyball members.

Students have so much going on that volleyball can get lost in the shuffle.

Acef said she wanted to play last year but thought, in September, it was too late. At the time of printing the volleyball team is still looking for people interested in joining and being involved. For more information contact Sue MacAvoy, at smacavoy@necc.mass.edu or 978-556-3820

# New season

**Beatrice Fernando: NECC Student  
Tells Her Story of Enslavement  
Friday, October 7, 2011  
12:00—1:30, E-155, Haverhill**



As a young, single mother in Sri Lanka, Fernando answered an employment advertisement for a housemaid position in Lebanon to earn money to support her young son. Instead of a steady paycheck and financial freedom, she became a victim of human trafficking and modern day slavery. She was imprisoned, physically abused and never paid. She finally escaped the home by jumping from a fourth floor balcony, which resulted in temporary paralysis. In 1989, she moved to the U.S., hoping to "disappear and hide."

Fernando now devotes her free time to raising awareness about human trafficking and slavery. She has started the Nivasa Foundation (Nivasa means "home" in the Sinhalese language) with the mission to break the cycle of modern day slavery for women and their children.

Through the foundation, Fernando travels around the country sharing her story and stresses that human trafficking doesn't affect any one country, race or social class. For more information on Fernando, visit <http://www.bearopublishing.com/>.

For additional details about this event, contact Judith Kamber, Dean of Professional Development, at 978-556-3955 or [jkamber@necc.mass.edu](mailto:jkamber@necc.mass.edu).

Co-sponsored by:

The Center for Professional Development, NECC's National Coalition Building Institute Team, and the Global Studies Department

## Sports

# Fall sports overview

By JOSH PELTONOVICH  
Sports Editor

Fall brings Men's and Women's Basketball and Volleyball for the Knights. All the teams are geared up for the upcoming season having held tryouts and with practices beginning soon. Northern Essex is a division three junior college school that holds high expectations for the upcoming season.

With merited wins in the past, the royal gold Knights always look to rekindle old flames and embark on a new championship season. The men's team is being led by an experienced coach who knows how to win: Darren Stratton and assistant Joe Tardif.

The men's team looks to strengthen weak areas with additions of almost all new players.

Stratton said, "We're a young team with a lot of freshman with a lot of depth. We have high expectations."

Stratton continued to say that 44 players attended mandatory meetings and that eight more missed the meeting because of work obligations. The men's

team had a rocky road last season losing five players to ineligibility at the break.

The team finished with a record of 6-19 and no postseason action. The team hopes to return a few players from last year but looks forward to a rebuilding season with a fresh start.

Leaving last season in the past and focusing on the now, the team plans on working hard to achieve excellence once again in a fruitful basketball history at NECC.

The women's basketball team last season also fought through active player issues. Returning with rejuvenated spirits and confidence, the women's team has optimistic visions for the new year.

A team who last year who at times only had 5-6 active players for games battled through such adversities to be competitive in at least a third of the games, shows the resilience of the Knights. They hope to have a more stable roster for the 2011-2012 season.

Last year was a great year for the NECC Volleyball team; one of its best since 2006. They

played in the Holyoke Tourney, which are eight games in two days with only one sub. It proved to be tough feat but they pushed through it and kept the momentum rolling all season long.

The team also attended the NHTI tournament and for the first time ever made it to the finals.

They played two exceptional matches against CCRI which is a division 2 team but wound up losing in the fifth set both times. The team ended up winning the region and traveled to Bergin Community College to attend the Region XIX tournament, where they played admirably suffering a lose to the first place team that went on to the district tourney.

Amongst all of the excitement for the year three players received post-season honors. Katie Demers was selected to All-Tournament team for the NHTI tourney as well as the region tourney.

The Knights hope to continue the success into this year even though Coach Sue MacAvoy says "there will be no returning players."

# September Activities

## The campus game room a place to have some fun at school

By JOSH PELTONOVICH  
Sports Editor

The Recreational center has a lot of intramural sports for the month of September. A student must just sign a waiver one time and they are good to go for sports all year long. The 21st of this month from 12-1pm there is a 8-ball pool tourney.

The 23rd there is quidditch, a unique sport popularized from the Harry Potter novels and movies at 12-1 p.m. Then on the 26th from 12-1 p.m there is the fast paced sport of ultimate Frisbee. Ending the month of intramurals on the

28th with soccer at 12-1p.m.

The gym will be closed for all students on the 29th and 30th of September.

Also all semester the campus game room offers a casual atmosphere to socialize or enjoy a game of darts, pool, ping-pong, Foosball, plus a array of board games. Some games come with a small fee. To use the sports equipment one must need to just present a valid Necc school id. Equipment for sports ranges from footballs, soccer balls and basketballs.

The campus game room is open Monday through Friday 10am-1pm. The wellness and fitness center is also free to all current students. So while the weather is still nice get out and meet some new friends and play some sports.

# We run the campus

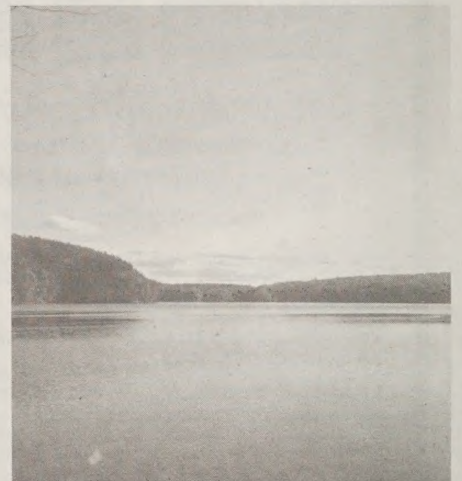
By JOSH PELTONOVICH  
Sports Editor

This fall NECC has a new extracurricular activity available for students and employees. The President's running club will meet up weekly on campus. I sat down with President Lane Glenn to ask him about the new event. I asked him what inspired this running club he said "It kinda started out as a joke at first."

It has molded into much more now though. It will begin with a walk around the 1.1 mile "loop" on campus and then progressively build up to three laps and then a 4.4 mile run on the trail on Kenoza Lake. President Glenn himself whom is a avid runner will be participating the whole duration of the event with Jeff Bickford to assist him. Students that are interested will get a entry to the "feaster five."

Lane said that "there are around 8,000 to 9,000 contestants in this annual race and it would be nice to have NECC students and faculty present."

This race takes place in Andover, and is held on Thanksgiving day. A student only needs to participate for at least six weeks to receive a "we run the campus" jersey and a free entry into the "feaster five. Glenn enlightened me on the race stating "people will run in costumes



Staff photo

## Run the 4.4 mile around the scenic trails of Kenoza Lake with President Lane Glenn.

and the race is 5k or 5 miles" and he hopes "a lot of students attend to show school pride."

"We're gonna start out easy it's about general fitness, running is healthy and energizing." All college students and employees are encouraged to join regardless of prior running experience. This is a chance for the school members to meet new friends have fun and exercise all in one.

Meetings will start September 26th at 12 p.m. til 1 p.m. and follow consecutively every Monday until

November. I asked Glenn if this on campus running would become an annual event itself and he replied "If there's enough interest it will keep going or pick up in the spring." Glenn himself runs all year long and runs around the campus as much as he can depending on work. Those interested can meet at the Haverhill campus sports and fitness center September 26th. For any additional information please contact Maureen Saliba at msaliba@necc.mass.edu.



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## Love, Lust and Relationships

# Is this a date? OR just a hookup?

By S.J.A.

Observer columnist

Never one to shy away from any sort of invite, it didn't surprise me when I accepted 'Hookup's' invitation to watch the game at a local bar in the city. Why not? I like to drink. I like sports. I like the city.

'Hookup' and I had met through friends last winter. It was one of those instant attractions, or so I heard, considering the attraction was only on his end.

He was nice, attentive, and clearly interested. So I went with it.

Its funny how sometimes even when you're not interested in someone, you are.

Flattery takes over and you find your brain convincing itself that this person is your type, is cute, and is worthy of your time.

Long story short, 'Hookup' and I ended up, well, hooking up.

That's what happens on cold winter nights filled with vodka... and balmy spring nights filled with jello-shots, and, more recently, warm summer nights filled with beer.

'Hookup' became just that. At first I felt used, always being that girl who didn't do that sort of thing, but then it kind of became our thing. It became almost expected.

And I was fine with it.

That's the other thing with alcohol-infused nights. Perfect ladies

turn into fun, uninhibited Jenna Jameson types.

So now here I am, months later, contemplating seeing this guy again.

Only this time it wasn't a get together with friends. We didn't have that safety net.

There was no couch to stumble back to at the end of the night. It was going to be just the two of us.

Is this a date? Last time I checked you didn't date your hookup. It was one of those new unwritten rules that became somewhat inked in today's dating world.

So he wants to hookup? Probably. But don't they (we) all?

So now I'm stuck here in limbo trying to decide if I'm that girl who goes out with men just to justify my worth, if I'm that girl who cancels days before with no real excuse, or if I'm the girl who says 'screw it' and goes anyway.

As much as I hate to admit it, I think I'm all three. This time I decided to just go and make the best of it.

We decided to meet at the bar that we always seem to meet at, have a drink or two and see where the night took us.

I dressed casual, jeans and a cute t-shirt with sky high heels. He arrived in usual male date attire,

jeans and a blue button-up.

We got a table and quickly ordered a drink. We had never been one on one so this was foreign territory for us.

Before long, we relaxed and started talking about music, movies, and fantasy sports. Perfect. I was beginning to actually like this guy.

Conversation was easy, flirting was heavy, and we were totally hitting it off. This one on one thing was much easier than I had anticipated.

We decided to take a walk down the street and went to a club to start dancing and get a little closer.

We got close, very close. Kissing was intense and it was getting to the point where people were staring.

Ok, time to go.

Time to kiss goodnight, thank him for a lovely time, and hopefully make plans to do this again. This date thing.

This was a good fit for us. Things were looking up! Maybe you can flip a hookup into a boyfriend.

In perfect gentleman fashion, he took my hand and helped me down the stairs in my heels.

Then he took me in close and whispered in my ear, 'Let's get a hotel room.'

Whoops! Spoke too soon. Boyfriend, schmo boyfriend. What was I thinking?

I gave him a little smile and didn't exactly say 'no,' but tried to turn his attention onto how great the night had been and that we should just leave it at that.

Then 'Hookup' turned on his boy d-bag mode.

Throwing his arms in the air, yelling at me, telling me how he wouldn't have wasted his time buying me drinks all night if this is how it was going to be.

He stormed off, literally leaving me on a street corner, alone, in the city, at 1 A.M..

Complete irony he left me on a street corner. Apparently that's where he thought I belonged. Why wouldn't he?

My previous behavior didn't exactly prove otherwise. In a

fury I ran in my heels all the way down the street, into the parking garage, and to my car. I couldn't believe it.

He tried calling me on my ride home, probably realizing leaving a girl alone in the middle of the night wasn't the nicest thing to do.

I ended up talking to him the next day, accepting his apology, and leaving it at that.

He tried contacting me, looking for a redemption date, another shot, another something.

I always accepted, then cancelled days before with no real excuse.

Old habits die hard.

I was proof that trying to turn a hookup into something more is a lost cause. I wouldn't recommend doing it.

There's a reason why he only called me for one thing. I was that one and only thing to him.

Even if he thinks I'm a cool chick, I'm still just that.

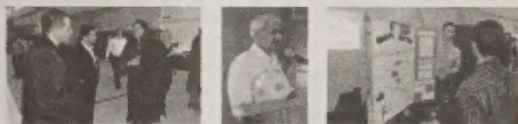
Lesson learned. Real men will respect you and not leave you on a street corner.

Let's let our hookups be just that and save ourselves the headache. Next.

*S.J.A. is a student at NECC, who like you goes through the ups and downs of relationships, love and lust.*

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[www.necc.mass.edu/observer](http://www.necc.mass.edu/observer)



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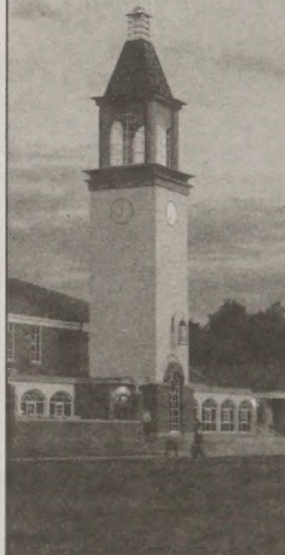
For an application or more information, check out  
<http://www.uml.edu/mvsandbox/application>.

#### NECC Contacts:

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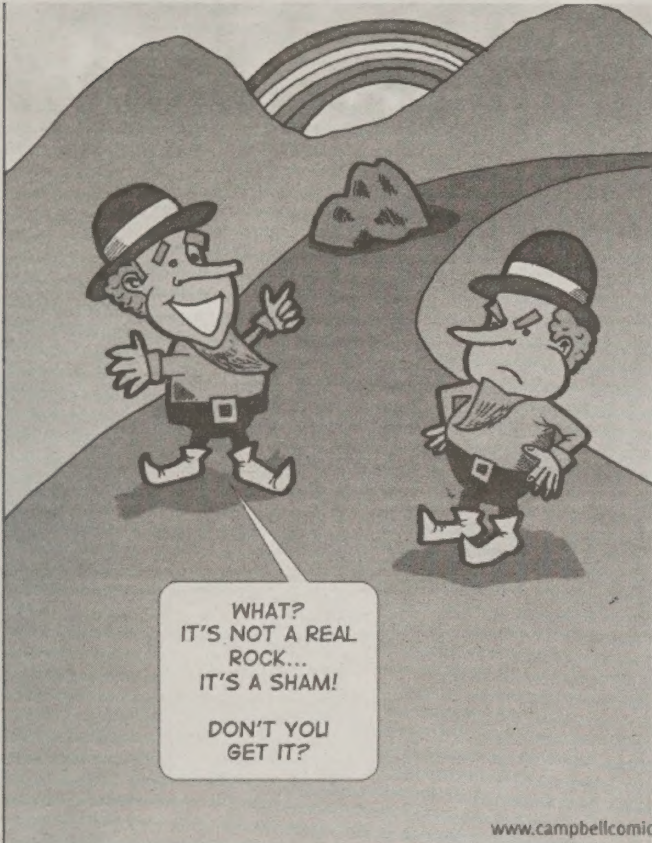
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**FALL  
OPEN HOUSES**  
Sept. 24, Oct. 22  
& Nov. 12

The Funnies

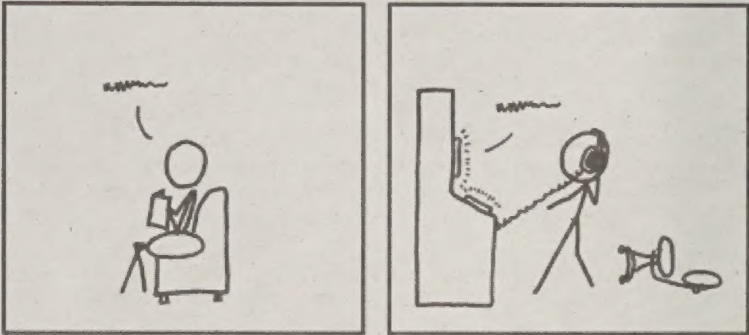


**WANTED:**  
Your own  
brilliant comics

Send to:  
**OBSERVER@**  
**necc.mass.edu**

I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING

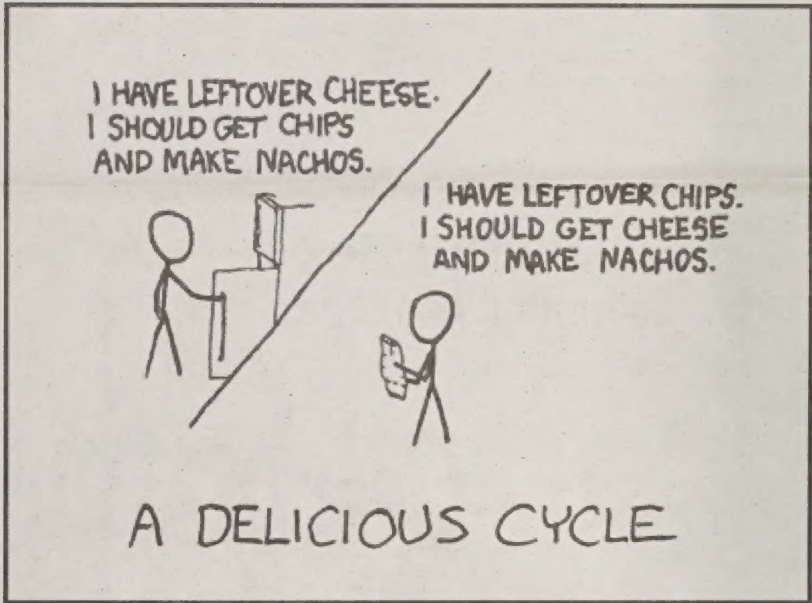
NOW AND THEN, I ANNOUNCE "I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING" TO EMPTY ROOMS.



IF I'M WRONG, NO ONE KNOWS.  
AND IF I'M RIGHT, MAYBE I JUST FREAKED  
THE HELL OUT OF SOME SECRET ORGANIZATION.

www.xkcd.com

DELICIOUS



WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

take the hit for WONDERMARK.COM

WHY IS THERE NO CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE WAY TO SAY "YOU GONNA FINISH THAT SPAGHETTI?"

WHY IS IT SUCH A TABOO TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT WASTING FOOD?

BECAUSE YOU ARE MAKING A PIG OF YOURSELF. WHY MUST YOU FIXATE ON VACUUMING UP EVERY LAST CRUMB?

WHY DON'T YOU? THAT'S FOOD! THAT'S CALORIES AND ENERGY! THAT'S SUNLIGHT AND DIESEL AND THE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS!

I WON'T LET IT ALL BE FOR NOTHING!

A TON OF SUNK COSTS HAVE GONE INTO THIS FOOD. YOU CAN'T JUST TOSS IT! THAT'S SOCIOPATHIC. THAT'S NERO, FIDDLING WHILE ROME BURNS. THE FOOD VERSION.

YOU KNOW, YOU'LL ACTUALLY CONSUME LESS - AND THUS WASTE LESS - IF YOU SAVE LEFTOVERS FOR LATER MEALS.

I'M NOT GONNA DIRTY A TUPPERWARE FOR THREE SPOONFULS OF SPAGHETTI! WASHING IT WILL BE EVEN MORE WASTEFUL! HOT WATER! SOAP! TIME!

NO. BY PUTTING FOOD TO THE USE IT WAS SACRIFICED FOR - NOURISHING ME - I AM PAYING THE KARMIC DEBT INCURRED BY THE FOOD PRODUCERS. IT IS A MORAL GOOD!

IT'S NOT NOURISHING YOU! ALL THAT EXTRA SPAGHETTI IS PROBABLY SHORTENING YOUR LIFESPAN!

ALL MARTYRS ARE MISUNDERSTOOD IN THEIR LIFETIMES

# Do you know someone that has contributed to NECC?

As part of its year-long 50th anniversary celebration, which begins this September, Northern Essex Community College will honor influential members of the NECC community who have made a difference in the lives of others.

The college is accepting nominations for these awards which honor the many individuals that have made a powerful and positive difference to Northern Essex, its students, and to the surrounding communities over the last 50 years.

Nominees can include graduates of the college who have achieved personal and professional success and/or given back to the college or community; faculty or staff who have demonstrated exemplary performance as instructors, mentors, or leaders; or community friends who have shown a strong commitment to helping fulfill the mission of the college.

The 50 top nominees will be recognized at the college's 50th anniversary gala which is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2012 at DiBurro's in Ward Hill. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, November 1, 2011. A committee comprised of college faculty and staff will review nominations and select the award recipients.

To learn more about the Making a Difference Awards or access a nomination form, visit the college's 50th anniversary website at <http://www.necc.mass.edu/celebrating-50-years-of-making-a-difference/>. For more information, contact Wendy Shaffer at the college, 50in50@necc.mass.edu or 978 556-3858.

*Editor's Note: This is a press release courtesy of NECC's public relations.*



Welcome and good luck for a successful year! We look forward to working with you!

The Student Engagement Center provides opportunities for students to integrate recreational, civic and social programs to foster a holistic educational experience.

Some of the opportunities include:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student Leadership Development Program</li><li>• Student Life</li><li>• Clubs &amp; Organizations</li><li>• Student Activities</li><li>• New Student Orientation</li></ul> | <p>Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• College ID Cards</li><li>• Locker Rentals</li><li>• Bus Passes (Haverhill Campus)</li><li>• Lawrence YMCA Pass (Lawrence Campus)</li></ul> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Our offices are located in Haverhill in the Sport & Fitness Center (D117) and in Lawrence on Franklin Street (L133) or by phone at 978/556-3731. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!



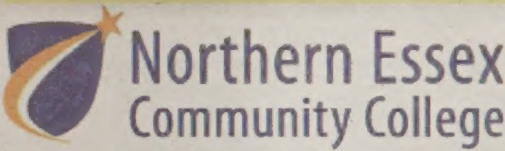
To find out more, visit us at: [www.necc.mass.edu/student-life/activities/center/](http://www.necc.mass.edu/student-life/activities/center/).



Find us on Facebook: NECC Student Engagement Center



The Student Engagement Center is a part of Student Life Unit, Division of Enrollment Management and Student Services. For more information, please contact the Student Engagement Center at 978-556-3731 or [engagement@necc.mass.edu](mailto:engagement@necc.mass.edu). Check us out on Facebook under NECC Student Engagement Center.



# Celebrating 50 Years Picnic on the Lawn

*Faculty, staff and students are invited!*

**Wednesday, October 5, 2011  
12-1PM**

**Haverhill Campus  
Outside the Sport & Fitness Center**

**Cookout, Field Games, and Giveaways!  
Free while supplies last!**



Sponsored by the NECC Student Life Unit, Division of Enrollment Management and Student Services. For more information or to request communication access for this event, please contact the Student Engagement Center at 978/556-3731 or [engagement@necc.mass.edu](mailto:engagement@necc.mass.edu). Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may contact any NECC office via the relay service by dialing 7-1-1 (tty) or through Video Relay Service (VRS) of their choice.